

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces; and

~~a discrete skin adherent, apertured facing layer having a distal surface secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core, wherein the facing layer includes portions along a proximal surface thereof having different degrees of skin adherence.~~

a skin adherent, facing layer having a distal surface connected to at least a portion of the proximal surface of the absorbent core, wherein said facing layer has a center portion and a border portion bordering the center portion, the center and border portions having different degrees of skin adherence relative to one another; and

wherein the center portion of the facing layer is an elastomeric gel directly secured to the absorbent core and defines a pattern of apertures extending therethrough to the absorbent core.

Claim 2. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the degree of skin adherence corresponding to a ~~generally central~~ the center portion of the facing layer is less than the degree of skin adherence along a the border portion ~~bordering the central portion thereof.~~

Claim 3. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein ~~the facing layer includes at least~~ center and border portions define two concentric sections located at different distances from a central axis of the wound dressing ~~having dissimilar skin adherence properties.~~

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Claim 4. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the degree of skin adherence of the facing layer gradually increases from a central axis of the facing layer towards the periphery thereof.

Claim 5. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the skin adherence of the facing layer gradually increases from a the border of a central portion to the periphery of the center ~~portion of the facing layer towards the periphery thereof.~~

Claim 6. (Cancelled)

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim ~~6~~ 1, wherein opposed segments of the border portion have greater skin adherence than the remaining areas of the border portion ~~of the facing layer.~~

Claim 8. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the facing layer is substantially planar along the distal surface thereof.

Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core is generally circular, and the center and border portions are facing layer ~~including concentric sections having varying degrees of skin adherence.~~

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Claim 9. (Currently Amended) The wound dressing according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core is generally circular; and the center and border portions are facing layer ~~including concentric sections having varying degrees of skin adherence.~~

Claim 10. (Currently Amended) A wound dressing comprising:  
an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces; ~~and~~  
a skin adherent, apertured facing layer having a distal surface secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core, wherein said facing layer has at least two discrete sections having varying degrees of skin adherence along a proximal surface thereof; and  
wherein the at least two discrete sections of the facing layer are separate, continuous sheets of elastomeric gel.

Claim 11. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 10, further comprising a first discrete section of the facing layer corresponding to a central portion of the facing layer and a second discrete section of the facing layer corresponding to a border portion of the facing layer, said second discrete section having greater skin adherence than the first discrete section.

Claim 12. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 11, wherein the second discrete section is substantially concentric to the first discrete section.

Claim 13. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 11, further comprising a third discrete section of the facing layer interposed between first and second discrete

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sections of the facing layer, said third discrete section having a degree of skin adherence between the degrees of skin adherence of the first and second discrete sections.

Claim 14. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 13, wherein the first and third discrete sections include apertures, the apertures of the first discrete section being larger than the apertures of said third section.

Claim 15. (Cancelled)

Claim 16. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the proximal surface of the facing layer is substantially planar.

Claim 17. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the skin adherence of each discrete section of the facing layer is substantially uniform.

Claim 18. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the skin adherence of each discrete section varies transversely across the width thereof.

Claim 19. (Original) The wound dressing according to claim 10, wherein the facing layer is substantially planar along the distal surface thereof.

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Claim 22. (Previously Presented) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces; and

a skin adherent, facing layer consisting an elastomeric gel and having a distal surface directly secured to the proximal surface of the absorbent core, wherein said facing layer has at least two discrete sections having different degrees of skin adherence, and at least one section of the facing layer defines a pattern of apertures.

Claim 23. (New) A wound dressing comprising:

an absorbent core having opposed proximal and distal surfaces; and

a skin adherent, facing layer having an elastomeric gel center portion directly secured to the entirety of the absorbent core and defining a pattern of apertures, the facing layer further having a border portion bordering at least a portion of the center portion, the border portion having a degree of greater skin adherence than the center portion.